

Maitland Conservation Foundation

NEWS ON RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

MCF Receives Donation for Snowshoes

The Maitland Conservation Foundation (MCF) recently received a \$2,000 donation from the United Communities Credit Union Community Investment Program. The goal of the Community Investment Program is to enrich the communities where United Communities Credit Union members live and work by building thriving neighbourhoods. This generous donation will be used to purchase new snowshoes for use at the Wawanosh Nature Centre and at schools across the watershed.



Each year over 1,500 students participate in snowshoeing activities delivered by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. Snowshoes are also a big part of the annual SNOWfest held in January at the Nature Centre. At that event visitors are encouraged to try out snowshoeing and explore the scenic winter trails.

“Using snowshoes is both a great physical activity and a practical way to travel through our conservation areas in winter,” reports Esther Buck, MVCA Community Education Technician.

Most of the snowshoes currently used at the Nature Centre are over 25 years old. “After being used by thousands of students our snowshoes are finally wearing out,” said Buck. “We’re so pleased to receive this generous donation from the United Communities Credit Union. It will enable us to start the process of replacing the snowshoes and ensure that we’re able to deliver programs next winter.”

Trust Fund Hosts Plant & Compost Sale

The John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund (JHETF) held a very successful perennial plant and compost sale in early May. Trust Fund volunteers organized the sale in Goderich and raised over \$1,600. Proceeds from this event will be used to support a biological inventory of a property near Goderich that has recently been acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

In the afternoon the Trust Fund partnered with the Maitland Trail Association to provide guided walks for visitors through the Maitland Woods. The weather was near perfect and participants were treated to a great display of spring wildflowers. Several children on the walk spotted two snakes sunning themselves at the edge of the trail.

The JHETF is administered by the MCF but operates with its own Board of Directors. The Trust Fund was launched in 1996 to honour John’s life-long commitment to conservation and to support the types of environmental projects that were important to him.



JHETF’s plant and compost sale held on May 4, 2009.

Conservation Raffle - get your tickets now!

There are two great prizes up for grabs in the MCF's 2009 Conservation Raffle. First prize is \$1,000 and second prize is \$250. Tickets are just \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The draw will take place during the Fall Colour Tour at the Wawanosh Nature Centre on October 4th.

Tickets are available at the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority office in Wroxeter or by calling the Foundation at 519 335-3557. Tickets will also be sold at the Fall Colour Tour until the draw at 3:00 p.m. Don't miss out, call today to get your tickets.

Another Successful Dinner & Auction

In April the MCF hosted their 21st annual Dinner & Auction at the Community Centre in Brussels. The momentum from last year's 20th anniversary continued as ticket sales outpaced anticipated levels. Over 280 tickets were sold and 18 tables were purchased by generous businesses and families. The event raised over \$26,000.

Proceeds from the Dinner & Auction will be used to support conservation education programs delivered by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority. The success of the Dinner & Auction will enable over 7,000 visitors to participate in hands-on environmental programs at the Wawanosh Nature Centre. Another 1,500 students will participate in conservation activities delivered at their schools or community events. Since its inception in 1988 the Dinner & Auction has supported the delivery of programs to over 125,000 participants.

The Foundation would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event successful. Special thanks is extended to auctioneer Dave Johnston who contributed so much to the evening.

Bob McDonald - June 23 in Goderich



Award winning science broadcaster and journalist Bob McDonald will be speaking at the Columbus Centre in Goderich on June 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mr. McDonald's presentation, entitled *Perspectives on a Planet*, will examine the Earth in its full environmental context, a small rock covered in a film of water and air that's just close enough to an average star to support life.

Admission is free, donations in support of the John Hindmarsh Environmental Trust Fund or the Friends of the Bayfield River would be gratefully accepted.

This event is sponsored by the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region. To reserve your seat email facilitator@sourcewaterinfo.on.ca or call 519 235-2610 or toll free 1-888-268-2610. Please reserve your seat by June 17th.



The MCF works in partnership with the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority to raise funds for conservation projects. The Foundation is a registered, charitable organization.

Coming Events

SPRING EDUCATION PROGRAMS
May 5 to June 25
Wawanosh Nature Centre
Call 519 335-3557 for program information.

FAMILY FISHING DERBY AT
FALLS RESERVE C. A.
July 10 to July 12
Prizes for tagged fish caught in the stocked pond. For information call 519 524-6429 or toll free 1-877-FALLSCA.

MCF/MVCA BBQ
September 10, 6:30 p.m.
Join us for a BBQ at the Wawanosh Nature Centre. Everyone interested in the MCF is welcome to attend. Call 519 335-3557 for information.

FALL COLOUR TOUR
October 4, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Wawanosh Nature Centre
Free admission.

Donate Online

Donations to the MCF may be made online at www.canadahelps.org

Privacy Commitment

We're committed to protecting the privacy of our members and donors. We do not make our mailing list available to any other organization. If you would prefer not to receive our mailings please contact us:

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